

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 16077 301740Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MMO-01 PER-01 SP-02 SSO-00 /017 W
-----023210 301745Z /43

O 301635Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 16077

STADIS////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: A/MODE
SUBJECT: MODE: ABMC PERSONNEL LEVELS

REF: STATE 217031 77 ROME 11216: LETTER GENERAL ADAMS TO
ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST JUNE 5, 1978

1. THE EMBASSY IS FULLY AWARE OF, AND WHOLEHEARTEDLY ENDORSES, THE IMPORTANT WORK OF ABMC IN PRESERVING AND MAINTAINING THE BURIAL GROUNDS OF AMERICAN WAR DEADOVERSEAS. HOWEVER, EACH AGENCY CONSIDERED BY THE MODE SHOULD, IN OUR VIEW, LOOK AT THIS PROCESS IN THE SPIRIT WHICH UNDERLIES THE PRESIDENT'S DESIRES TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS EMPLOYED ABROAD IN NON-ESSENTIAL JOBS. WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE RETENTION OF THE FULL COMPLEMENT OF THE ABMC DETACHMENT IN ITALY IS DESIRABLE. WE HAVE STRONG DOUBTS THAT IT IS "ESSENTIAL". THE CASE MADE BY GENERAL ADMS IN HIS LETTER TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST OF JUNE 5 IS WELL ARGUED BUT NOT CONVINCING.

2. GENERAL ADMS'S DEFENSE OF CURRENT STAFFING LEVEL IN ITALY CONTAINS MANY ASSERTIONS THAT ARE IRRELEVANT TO THE MATTER AT HAND. WE ARE CONCERNED ONLY WITH THE NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED BY ABMC IN ITALY. THE QUESTION OF ABMC'S TOTAL OVERSEAS PERSONNEL STRENGTH IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR CONSIDERATION BY THIS MISSION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 16077 301740Z

3. GENERAL ADAM'S LETTER MAKES MUCH OF THE REDUCTIONS IN FORCE TO WHICH ABMC HAS BEEN SUBJECTED OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS. HE REPORTS A REDUCTION WORLDWIDE OF 12 PERCENT. IT IS SIGNIFICANT, HOWEVER, THAT DURING THAT PERIOD THE TOTAL NUMBER OF AMERICAN ABMC POSITIONS ABROAD WAS NOT REDUCED, AND THE ENTIRE REDUCTION WAS ABSORBED BY THE LOCAL

NATIONAL EMPLOYEES. THE INCREASED WORKLOAD (REFERRED TO BY GERNERAL ADAMS) BROUGHT ABOUT BY "AGING STRUCTURES... AND MATURATIONOF PLANTING" LOGICALLY IS MET PRIMARILY BY LOCAL NATIONAL PRSONNEL. THOUGH SUPERVISION IS OBVIOUSLY A KEY FACTOR IN MAINTAINING THE EXCELLENCE OF THE WORK DONE AT ABMC SITS IN ITALY, WE BELIEVE THAT THE REDUNDANCY OFFERED BY TWO AMERICAN SUPERVISORS AT A SITE CAN ONLY BE JUSTIFIED BY THE NEED FOR CONTINUITY OF SUPERVISION DURING THE ABSENCE OF A SUPERVISOR OWING TO LEAVE OR ILLNESS. ELIMINATING OE OF THE TWO ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR POSITIONS STILL LEAVES THE FLEXIBILITY TO COVER SUCH ABSENCES WHEN NECESSARY.

4. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ABMC OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, OUT OF WHICH THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDATION TO ELIMINATE THE POSITIONOF ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT AT FLORENCE EMERGED, PART OF THE DEFENSE OF THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES STATIONED IN ROME (AND INDEED OF MAINTAINING A ROME OFFICE AT ALL) WAS THE BURDENSOME REQUIREMENT TO MANAGE AND CONTRACT FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF ORNAMENTAL STONE USED AT ALL ABMC INSTALLATIONS. ACCORDING TO GENERAL ADAMS, THIS FUNCTION IS IN ACT PERFROMED BY THE STAFF IN FLORENCE. THIS APPARENT CONTRADICTION SUGGESTS TWO POSSIBLE ALTERNITIVE COURSES OF ACTION: REDUCE THE STAFF IN THE ROME OFFICE ACCORDINGLY, OR TRANSFER THE FUNCTION ENTIRELY TO THE ROME OFFICE, THEREBY FREEING THE FLORENCE SUPERINTENDENT FORM THOSE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ROME 16077 301740Z

DUTIES AND ELIMINATING WHAT APPARS TO BE A MAJOR IMPEDIMENT TO HIS FULL-TIME ATTENTION TO THE SUPERVISION OF THE LOCAL WORK FORCE.

5. IN TERMS OF WORKLOAD, THERE IS ANOTHER WAY TO LOOK AT THE FLORENCE AND NETTUNO OPERATIONS. FLORENCE IS STAFFED BY TWO AMERICANS AND 15 LOCAL NATIONALS: NETTUNO BY TWO AMERICANS AND 16 LOCAL NATIONALS. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE F.S.INSPECTION TEAM THAT RECENTLY INSPECTED THIS MISSION, 4,402 MILITARY DEAD ARE INTERRED AT FORENCE, 7,862 AT NETTUNO: FLORENCE RECEIVED 36,000 VISITORS IN 1977 (22,000 AMERICANS), NETTUNO 165,000 VISOTORS (39,000) AMERICANS). ASSUMING THE FIGURES FOR THE NUMBER S OF VISITORS TO BE ACCURATE, THE DISPARITY IS STRIKING. CLEARLY THE RECEPTION FUNCTION SHOULD CLAIM A MUCH GREATER PART OF THE SUPEVISORY MAN-HOURS AT NETTUNO THAN IT DOES AT FLORENCE. IF NETTUNO, WITH TWO AMERICANS, CAN MANAGE ITS SITE, WITH NEARLY TWICE AS MANY BURIAL PLOTS AND ORE THAN FOUR TIMES AS MANY VISITORS FLORENCE SHOULD BE ABLE EASILY TO MANAGE WITH ONE AMERICAN.

6. THE EMBASSY IS AWARE OF THE SECURITY PROBLEM AT FLORENCE. IT IS A PROBLEM THAT WILL LIKELY BE WITH US, AT LEAST IN GENERAL TERMS, FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. STILL, IN ITALY, THE KIND OF VANDALISM REPRESENTED BY THE EVENTS OF MARCH 24-25 1977, REMAINS ESSENTIALLY AN ABERRATION. WE AGREE WITH GENERAL ADAMS THAT THE PRESENCE OF AN AMERICAN AT THE SITE WOULD NOT LIKELY DETER FURTHER SUCH INCIDENTS. WE ALSO AGREE WITH THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PRESENCE OF AN AMERICAN SUPERVISOR TO MOBILIZE CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS. ELIMINATING THE POSITION OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR STILL LEAVES AN AMERICAN AT THE SITE, WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF ADDED SUPPORT FROM ROME OR NETTUNO UNDER EMERGENCY CONDITIONS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ROME 16077 301740Z

7. MAINTAINING THESE NATIONAL SHRINES AT THE PRESENT LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE IS CLEARLY IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST. NONETHELESS, THE EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THE CURRENT STANDARD CAN BE COMFORTABLY MAINTAINED WITH ONE LESS AMERICAN EMPLOYEE. HOLMES

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME16077
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780354-0612
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978088/aaaaagjy.tel
Line Count: 141
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a0c4ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 78 STATE 217031
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1783862
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MODE: ABMC PERSONNEL LEVELS
TAGS: AODE, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a0c4ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014